



Agricultural landscapes as multi-scale public good and the role of the Common Agricultural Policy

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Résumé en anglais	<p>During the last 50 years, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has impacted the evolution of European agricultural landscapes by driving changes in land use and farming practices. We propose a typology characterizing the scales relevant for agricultural landscapes management and argue that action is required on three scales: (1) a landscape oriented management at farm level, (2) the coordination of land managers' actions at landscape level, and (3) the conservation of the diversity of agricultural landscapes in the EU. We provide evidence that the CAP has until now mainly focused on the first scale. We also illustrate how agricultural policy could encourage coordinated actions at the landscape- and EU-scales. In particular, we propose policy instruments to coordinate actions of individual land owners (e.g. collective bonus in agro-environmental contracts or support to environmental cooperatives). We also analyse how the recognition and transposition of the European Landscape Convention could promote trans-frontier landscape cooperation in order, not only to conserve high-quality rural landscapes, but also to ensure the conservation of the diversity of EU landscapes (scale 3). This article provides a knowledge base to support an integrated CAP design in the direction of improved landscape management, as an important component of the EU project towards more sustainable agriculture.</p>
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